

15 Elm Street (Building)  
Boston  
Suffolk County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-788

HABS  
MASS,  
13 - BOST,  
88 -

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS  
MASS,  
13-BOST.  
88 -

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts		COUNTY Suffolk	TOWN OR VICINITY Boston
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 15 Elm St. (Building)			HABS NO. MA-788
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 15 Elm Street			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown. In 1798 a building on this site was valued at \$1,500. See continuation sheet		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The structure that remained until 1961 may have been part of an earlier structure dating from the 17th. century.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Heavy stone foundation (perhaps for a larger original structure). Wood frame, clapboard sheathing.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) In 1961, the building measured only 7' x 34'. It was 3 stories tall, with a small, 4-story rear section.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE First floor had been converted to shop fronts.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Undetermined, but a number of alterations had occurred over the years.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE During the early 18th. century, the building on this site was used as an inn, and may have been a stagecoach station. The structure was demolished by the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1961.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION N. Saltonstall			DATE August 1961

A wooden dwelling has stood on this lot since the seventeenth century. No mention is made in deeds or other sources of the razing of this house, but it is suspected that the interval between the following first two deeds may mark the true beginning of the house which until this year stood at 15 Elm Street.

- 1809 The heirs of Benjamin Cooper (6 children and son in law) sell their ownership parts to Zebulon Clapp (innholder) DB 228 / 294, DB 228 / 296 Property described in all deeds as follows: N on Wing's Land 33', E on Brattle St 36'11", W on land of Andrew Oliver and S on land of heirs of Isaac Cutter 43'3". During the Cooper's ownership a U. S. Direct Tax was levied which necessitated an inventory of existing estates. 15 Elm St. was listed as follows: "Rachael Cooper, owner and occupier, wooden dwelling; N on Wing's Lane, E on Brattle Square; S on Isaac Cutter. Land 1,188 square feet; house 1,188 square feet, 2 stories, 21 windows; Value \$1,500." P 289 Volume 22 Record Commissioner's Report. 1798
- 1811 Zebulon Clapp to Amos Binney esq. the land with buildings thereon bounded as follows: N on Wing's Lane formerly so called now Elm Street, 7'4"; E on Brattle Street 35'4"; S on land of heirs of Isaac Cutter 17'5"; and W on a passageway 34'10" with the building thereon standing, reserving to grantor mutual privilege of the well and pump and NW corner, also a small strip of land taken by town to widen Elm Street. DB 241/167 (It must be noted here that this lot of land is only half that sold to Z Clapp, but that according to the 1798 survey a house stood on the whole lot. Either the house was separated and a passageway was established between the two sections by 1812 or a new house was built on the smaller lot.)
- 1849 John A. Binney, Mary G. P. Binney and Emeline Binney, being three of five children of Amos Binney sell 3/5 part of the above described land to Atkins A. Clark, trunkmaker, for \$3600. DB 600/278 Charles G. Loring (for 1200 dollars) and Mary G. P. Binney (for \$1400) sell the remaining parts in 1849. DB 600/279
- 1858 Atkins Clark, manufacturer to Cyrus Sargent, gentlement for \$7000, "All that lot of land in said Boston with the buildings thereon bounded N by Elm 7'7", E by Brattle Square 34", S by a line through the center of the brick partition wall 15'3", and W by a passageway 33'10". (with free use of the passageway) DB 734/240
- 1960 For \$7000 this same lot is appropriated by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, as part of the Government Center Project area, from Cyrus Sargent et als. DB 7600/3
- 1961 Building razed.